

News Release



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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ICE AGENTS ARREST 35 NEW YORK AREA CRIMINAL ALIENS *Convicted felons on federal probation placed in removal proceedings*

NEW YORK, NY -- Martin D. Ficke, special agent-in-charge for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in New York, and Andrew Bobbe, senior deputy chief U.S. probation officer of the Eastern District of New York, today announced the arrest of 35 criminal aliens in Brooklyn (NY) as part of an ICE initiative that targets criminal aliens who are on probation and who have been convicted of federal felony offenses.

Those arrested had prior felony convictions for crimes including drug possession and trafficking, money laundering, bank and passport fraud, producing false identity documents and conspiracy to commit credit card fraud.

Ficke explained, "These criminal aliens have violated our nation's laws, and by doing so, they have lost the privilege to remain in this country. We will continue to coordinate our efforts with our law enforcement partners and to further insure the integrity of our immigration system."

Bobbe stated, "As a result of these arrests, these felony offenders have been taken off our streets and have made our communities safer for everyone."

The 35 who were arrested in this operation are citizens of Barbados, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ukraine and Yemen.

Twenty-one of the 35 criminal aliens were permanent residents of the United States. These aliens are deportable based on their convictions. The remaining 14 were illegally in this country. Two of those arrested had final orders of removal and one has already been deported. Each of the others have been placed in administrative proceedings and will either appear before an independent immigration judge who will hear their cases or they will be removed based on their prior convictions.

The ICE Office of Investigations in New York, in cooperation with the U.S. Probation Office, launched this initiative in August 2004. This is the second major ICE Shield operation with federal probation. The first operation, which was conducted in February 2005, resulted in the arrests of 40 criminal aliens who had been on federal probation.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.